

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 131255Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5374
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ECON, LY
SUBJECT: GREEN BOOK CAMPAIGN CARRIED TO TRIPOLI

REF: TRIPOLI 0266

1. TRIPOLI ON APRIL 12 WAS THE SCENE OF LARGE WELL-ORGANIZED MASS DEMONSTRATION WHICH CULMINATED IN FOUR HOURS OF PEP TALKS, REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANEERING AND CHANTING IN FRONT OF THE PEOPLE'S PALACE (FORMERLY ROYAL RESIDENCE) IN THE CITY'S CENTER. OFFICIAL PURPOSE OF DEMONSTRATION, ACCORDING TO TRIPOLI RADIO, WAS TO CELEBRATE EVACUATION OF BRITISH FORCES FROM LIBYA (MARCH 28, 1970) AND VICTORY OF "PRO-GRESSIVE" STUDENTS IN BENGHAZI (APRIL 7, 1976) WHICH HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT LIBYA DAILY FOR ALMOST TWO WEEKS.

2. IN ACTUALITY, DEMONSTRATION WAS EXTENSION OF INTENSIVE GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR CONTROVERSIAL SECOND PART OF QADHAFI'S "GREEN BOOK" WHICH IS INTENDED AS ARAB SOCIALIST BLUEPRINT TO REMOVE SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND SOLVE ECONOMIC ILLS. MANY OF THE MEASURES OUTLINED IN THE GREEN BOOK ARE VERY CONTROVERSIAL, SUCH AS PROHIBITING RENTAL INCOME, PERMITTING OWNERSHIP OF ONLY
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ONE RESIDENCE, AND MAKING WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES "PARTNERS" IN ALL BUSINESSES (REFTEL).

3. QADHAFI HAS SPENT MOST OF THE LAST MONTH GENERATING SUPPORT FOR THESE IDEAS IN BENGHAZI AND EASTERN LIBYA, TRADITIONALLY AREAS OF GREATEST OPPOSITION TO HIS REGIME. THERE HAVE BEEN FRAGMENTARY REPORTS OF ARRESTS OF

SOME BENGHAZI MERCHANTS FOR ALLEGEDLY "REACTIONARY" AND CORRUPT PRACTICES, BUT GREEN BOOK CAMPAIGN STILL APPEARS IN STAGE OF "INFORMING THE MASSES," AND IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY DECISION MADE AS YET AS TO WHEN OR HOW TO IMPLEMENT ITS FAR-RANGING AND OFTEN CONFUSING PROVISIONS.

4. BEGIN COMMENT. APRIL 12 DEMONSTRATION CAME ABOUT WITH SAME SUDDENNESS (AND DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION) THAT HAS ACCOMPANIED SCORES OF SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS HELD IN CAPITAL OVER PAST TWO YEARS. RADIO TRIPOLI CLAIMED PARTICIPATION BY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WHEN IN FACT PARTICIPATION WAS BY THE SAME FEW THOUSAND ASSEMBLED WORKERS, STUDENTS AND FARMERS WHO ARE REGULARLY MOBILIZED FOR SUCH EVENTS. FOR THE REST OF THE POPULACE, LACK OF INTEREST WAS NOTICEABLE, AND FESTIVITIES SIMPLY AFFORDED THEM OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY.

5. IF ANYTHING, DEMONSTRATION SOMEWHAT MORE ANTI-CLIMATIC THAN USUAL AS NO MAIN KEYNOTE SPEAKER APPEARED AT PEOPLE'S PALACE. THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE POPULAR ANTICIPATION THAT QADHAFI WOULD USE OCCASION TO MAKE HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN CAPITAL IN FIVE WEEKS, BUT DESPITE CROWD'S LONG AND LOUD APPEALS FOR QUOTE QADHAFI, THE PEOPLE ARE CALLING FOR YOU, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNQUOTE, THE LIBYAN LEADER CHOSE TO REMAIN IN SECLUSION, REPORTEDLY AT HIS DESERT RETREAT NEAR SIRTE. THEN AGAIN, ANY PROSPECTIVE KEYNOTER MAY HAVE BEEN DETERRED FROM APPEARING BY RELATIVELY SMALL TURN-OUT. CARLE

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